

CLAIM LISTING

1. (currently amended) A method for managing budgeting financial resources in an automated fashion to provide a running balance, the method comprising:

establishing a plurality of virtual financial accounts corresponding to budgetary categories overlaid upon an plurality of actual financial accounts; wherein at least one virtual financial account is overlaid upon multiple actual financial accounts and wherein multiple virtual financial accounts are overlaid upon one actual financial account;

allocating portions a given amount of a budget to funding for each of the plurality of virtual financial accounts;

allocating a transaction to a virtual financial account corresponding to the type selected from the plurality of virtual financial accounts, the transaction corresponding to a debit from or credit to at least one of the actual financial accounts upon which the virtual financial account selected is overlaid; and

automatically debiting the virtual account according to the or crediting the allocated fund amount according to the transaction and crediting allocated to the particular virtual financial account when additional funds become available, and from the at least one corresponding actual financial account.

2.-10. (cancelled)

11. (previously amended) An apparatus used to manage financial resources in an automated fashion comprising:

means for establishing a plurality of virtual financial accounts overlaid upon a plurality of actual financial accounts, wherein at least one virtual financial account is overlaid upon multiple actual financial accounts and wherein multiple virtual financial accounts are overlaid upon one actual financial account;

means for allocating a given amount of funding for each of the plurality of virtual financial accounts from each of the actual financial accounts upon which each virtual financial account is overlaid;

means for allocating a transaction to a virtual financial account selected from the plurality of virtual financial accounts, the transaction corresponding to a debit from or credit to at least one of the actual financial accounts upon which the virtual financial account selected is overlaid; and

means for debiting or crediting the allocated fund amount according to the transaction allocated to the particular virtual financial account and from the at least one corresponding actual financial account.

12. (original) The apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising means for determining a balance within each of the plurality of virtual financial accounts.

13. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising means for displaying the balance of a virtual financial account after transaction allocation.

14. (original) The apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising means for distinguishing between transactions that have cleared real time through the actual financial account and those that have not within each of the plurality of virtual financial accounts.

15. (original) The apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising means for displaying transaction information of a selected allocated transaction within one of the virtual financial accounts.

16.-31. (cancelled)

32. (new) A method for managing financial resources in an automated fashion comprising:

Establishing a plurality of virtual financial accounts overlaid upon at least one actual financial account;

allocating a given amount of funding for each of the plurality of accounts;

notifying a user when a purchase on a credit card or other financial instrument has been made;

allocating transactions to an account selected from the plurality of accounts; and automatically debiting or crediting the allocated fund amount according to the transaction

allocated to the particular account and from the actual financial account.

33. (new) A method for budgeting financial resources in an automated fashion comprising:

establishing a plurality of virtual financial accounts overlaid upon an actual financial account;

automatically periodically searching for transactions made on a user's credit card and notifying the user of the transactions;

allocating a given amount of budget for each of the plurality of accounts;

allocating transactions to a virtual account corresponding to the type of transaction;

automatically debiting the virtual account according to the transaction amount immediately after the transaction has been allocated to a virtual account and crediting the virtual account when funds become available.

34. (new) A method for budgeting financial resources in an automated fashion to provide a running balance, the method comprising:

establishing a plurality of virtual financial accounts corresponding to budgetary categories overlaid upon an actual financial account;

allocating portions of a budget to each of the plurality of accounts;

automatically periodically searching for transactions made on a user's credit card and notifying the user of the transactions;

notifying a user when a purchase on a credit card or other financial instrument has been made;

allocating transactions to a virtual account corresponding to the type of transaction;

automatically debiting the virtual account according to the transaction amount immediately after the transaction has been allocated to a virtual account and crediting the virtual account when funds become available when a new budgetary period begins.